(c) to (e) The Government of Andhra Pradesh had requested the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) for higher MSP of paddy for the kharif 2007-08 season.

The MSPs of paddy, oilseeds and pulses announced by the Government for 2007-08 season, which have been increased substantially over and above their MSPs for 2006-07 season, are given below:

(Rs. per quintal)

Commodity	MSP
Paddy common	645
Grade A	675
Groundnut-in-shell	1550
Sunflower seed	1510
Soyabean Black	910
Yellow	1050
Sesamum	1580
Nigerseed	1240
Arhar (Tur)	1550*
Moong	1700*
Urad	1700*

* A bonus of Rs.40 per quintal is payable over the MSP.

The MSP of paddy common at Rs.645/- per quintal and of paddy Grade A at Rs.675/- per quintal for 2007-08 season provides adequate margin over and above the projected C2 cost of production (*i.e.* actual expenses incurred in cash and kind, including rent paid for leased-in land, and imputed value of wages for family labour, rent for owned land and interest on fixed capital) of paddy for Andhra Pradesh at Rs.587/- per quintal.

Short-term credit for farmers

2007. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government with the help of any existing law have allowed for negotiable warehouse receipt systems which enable farmers to use grain as collateral for short term credit and help them to avoid immediate post harvest, low price sales;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any measures have been taken to popularize the facility;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the total short term credit availed by the farmers of the country and of the State of Andhra Pradesh in particular; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) Under various State Warehousing Acts, negotiable warehouse receipts issued by warehouseman enables farmers to use grain as collateral for short term credit from banks. In order to enable the farmers to seek easy loans from Banks, Government has taken necessary legal measures to bring uniformity and to make warehouse receipt fully negotiable. Training and awareness programme has been launched to popularize the facility and create awareness amongst farmers and other stakeholders. During 2006-07, total short term credit purveyed to the farmers in the country was Rs.1,31,631 crore. Total short term credit availed by the farmers through Andhra Pradesh State Warehousing Corporation during 2006-07 was Rs.36.90 crore.

(e) Does not arise.

Availability of milk products

2008. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether prices of milk and milk products have been increased several times during the last two years causing undue hardship to the common man;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last two years, month-wise and year-wise;

(c) whether Government have any proposal to impose a ban on the export of milk powder to avert the scarcity of milk in the coming months; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to ensure adequate availability of milk and milk products in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) During the last two years, price of milk and milk products have increased in some of the States and Union Territories due to an increase in production cost. Statement showing retail price of milk in various cities and major milk products (Skim Milk Powder and Ghee) in Delhi during the last two years is enclosed at Statement-I and Statement-II respectively (*See* below).

(c) and (d) Government regularly reviews the availability of milk and milk products in the country. A notification was issued on 9-2-2007 to ban export of milk powders till 30th September, 2007 to ensure availability of milk and milk products in the country, at reasonable price.